derivatives such as hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC), hydroxyethyl cellulose (HEC), hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC), methyl cellulose, ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose and sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (NaCMC); starch derivatives such as moderately cross-linked starch; acrylic polymers such as carbomer and its derivatives (Polycarbophyl, Carbopol®, etc.); polyethylene oxide (PEO); chitosan (poly(D-glucosamine)); natural polymers such as gelatin, sodium alginate, pectin; scleroglucan; xanthan gum; guar gum; poly co-(methylvinyl ether/maleic anhydride); and crosscaramellose. Combinations of two or more bio/mucoadhesive polymers can also be used. More generally, any physiologically acceptable agent showing bio/mucoadhesive characteristics may be used successfully to be incorporated in the carrier. Bio/mucoadhesiveness can be determined in vitro, e.g. according to G. Sala et al., Proceed. Int. Symp. Contr. Release. Bioact. Mat. 16:420, 1989.--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

--1. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of acute disorders by sublingual administration, comprising an essentially water-free, ordered mixture of microparticles of at least one pharmaceutically active agent adhered to the surfaces of carrier particles, said particles being substantially larger than said microparticles and being